

OSHA QuickTakes

Occupational Safety and Health Administration



A twice monthly newsletter with information about workplace safety and health.

Top Story

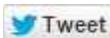
OSHA's free On-site Consultation Program helps nearly 30,000 employers create safer workplaces in 2015

OSHA's [On-site Consultation Program](#) provided free and confidential safety and occupational health advice to 27,871 small and medium-sized businesses across the country in 2015. The program recognizes that while most employers want to keep their workers safe and healthy on the job, smaller businesses often lack the resource of an on-site safety professional to find and fix hazards. Last year, 87 percent of consultations were conducted at businesses with 100 or fewer employees.



Consultants from state agencies or universities work with employers to identify workplace hazards, provide advice on compliance with OSHA standards, and assist in establishing injury and illness prevention programs. Priority is given to high-hazard worksites in industries such as manufacturing and construction. In 2015, consultants identified and helped employers eliminate more than 140,000 total hazards, protecting an estimated 3.5 million workers from possible injury, illness or death.

On-site Consultation services are separate from enforcement and do not result in penalties or citations. Visit OSHA's website to find the local [On-site Consultation Program office](#) in your state or territory.



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Recordkeeping

Employers must post 300A injury/illness summary form February through April

The image shows a screenshot of OSHA Form 300A, titled "Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses". The form is divided into several sections, including "Employer Information", "Summary of Injuries and Illnesses", and "Detailed Information". The "Summary of Injuries and Illnesses" section contains a table with columns for "Total Number of Injuries", "Total Number of Illnesses", "Total Number of Lost Workdays", "Total Number of Restricted Workdays", and "Total Number of Job Transfer Days". The form is designed to be posted in a common area where notices to employees are usually posted.

OSHA is reminding covered employers to post [OSHA's Form 300A](#) which summarizes the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses logged during 2015. The summary must be posted between Feb. 1 and April 30, 2016, and should be displayed in a common area where notices to employees are usually posted.

Employers with 10 or fewer employees and employers in specific low-hazard industries are normally exempt from federal OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping and posting requirements. Due to changes in OSHA's recordkeeping requirements that went into effect Jan. 1, 2015, certain previously exempt industries are now covered. Lists of both [exempt](#) and [newly covered](#) industries are available on OSHA's website. Visit OSHA's [Recordkeeping Rule webpage](#) for more information on recordkeeping requirements.



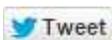
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Enforcement

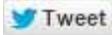
New Hampshire contractor faces \$152K in fines for repeatedly exposing workers to potentially fatal falls and other hazards



Following a complaint of unsafe conditions at a High & Dry Roofing work site in Manchester, N.H., OSHA inspectors found that employees were working at heights over 20 feet without fall protection and proper ladder safeguards. Inspectors returned two days later and found the same hazards existed. OSHA cited owner Michael Cahoon with ten violations, proposing penalties of \$152,460. Violations include setting scaffolding too close to a live electrical line, failing to provide workers with fall protection, hard hats and eye protection, and failing to safeguard workers from contact with operating parts of an air compressor. Cahoon was cited in 2012 for similar violations at two other New Hampshire worksites. The company has been placed in OSHA's Severe Violator Enforcement Program. For more information, read the [news release](#).



Dollar General store in Texas fined more than \$162K after exposing workers to hazards



Please visit the [enforcement news releases page](#) for more on OSHA enforcement activity.

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Whistleblower Protection

OSHA and FAA agree on joint responsibilities for protecting airline workers from retaliation

OSHA and the Federal Aviation Administration recently signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that encourages the agencies to share information about the anti-retaliation provision under the [Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century](#). The act prohibits air carriers and air carrier contractors and subcontractors from firing or retaliating against airline workers who complain about violations of aviation regulations.



OSHA and FAA each play a specialized role in protecting the safety of airline workers. OSHA investigates employee complaints of retaliation by air carriers and the FAA is responsible for investigating complaints related to air carrier safety, enforcing air safety regulations and issuing sanctions to air carriers for violating these regulations. For more information, see the [news release](#).



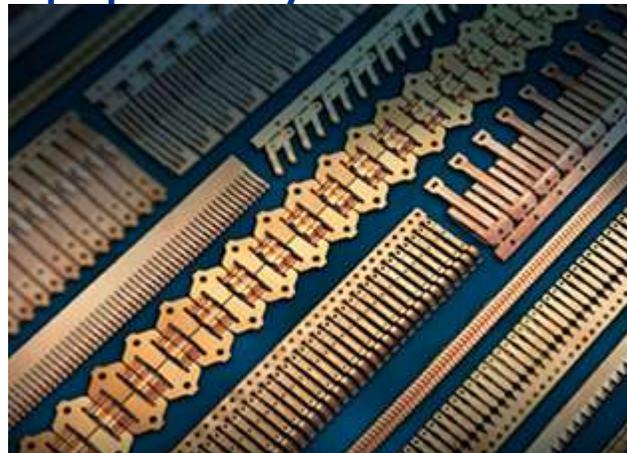
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Public Hearings

OSHA schedules public hearing on proposed beryllium rule

OSHA has scheduled a [public hearing](#) on the proposed rule to amend existing limits for exposure to beryllium in general industry. The hearing will be held Feb. 29 in Washington, D.C.

The [proposed rule](#) for [beryllium](#), a widely used material that can cause devastating lung disease, was published on Aug. 7, 2015. The public comment period closed Nov. 5, 2015. This hearing will provide the public additional opportunity to testify or provide evidence on issues raised by the proposal.



The hearing will begin at 2 p.m. in Room N-4437 A-D, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. If necessary, it will continue on subsequent days. Individuals who intend to present testimony or question witnesses must submit the full text of their testimony and all documentary evidence by Jan. 29, 2016. For more information, read the [news release](#).



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Educational Outreach

OSHA holds poultry processing safety workshops in four states

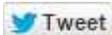
Last month, OSHA conducted workshops in Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana to share safety and health information with employers in the [poultry processing](#) industry. The workshops covered methods to protect workers from hazards such as dangerous equipment, musculoskeletal disorders, infectious pathogens, high noise levels, and hazardous chemicals.



Poultry workers are twice as likely to suffer serious injuries and six times more likely to get sick at work than other private sector workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma are among the nation's largest chicken producing states.

Participants at a Dec. 10 poultry processing workshop in Arkansas watch a video message from OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels.

OSHA offered the workshops as part of its outreach under the [Regional Emphasis Program for Poultry Processing Facilities*](#). The emphasis program includes a period for outreach and education, followed by a targeted enforcement phase under which OSHA will conduct inspections. For more information on the workshops, see the [story on OSHA's website](#).



Free training offered at Safety Fest of the Great Northwest

The Idaho Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program is offering free OSHA [10-Hour General Industry Outreach Training](#), parts 1 and 2, at the annual Safety Fest of the Great Northwest. Each year, employers and workers take advantage of this opportunity to get free safety-related training and improve their safety performance. Upcoming Safety Fests in Idaho are currently scheduled to take place in the cities of Boise, Pocatello, Post Falls, Twin Falls and Lewiston between Jan. 26 and April 7. For



specific dates and to register, visit OSHA's [Safety Fest webpage](#).



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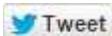
Alliances and Partnerships

OSHA renews alliance to protect construction workers from electrical hazards

OSHA recently renewed an alliance with [Independent Electrical Contractors Inc.](#), a national trade association for electrical and systems contractors. The primary focus of the five-year agreement is on providing agency staff with electrical safety and arc flash training, and preventing worker exposures to electric shock and arc flash hazards. Participants in the alliance will promote OSHA campaigns on preventing falls and heat illness and encourage a culture of safety through outreach to small businesses and workers with limited and non-English speaking skills. For more information, see the [news release](#).

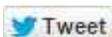


**Independent Electrical
Contractors**



OSHA renews alliance to protect roadway construction workers

OSHA has renewed an alliance with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and [Roadway Work Zone Safety and Health Partners](#) to protect workers in roadway construction work zones from injuries, illnesses and fatalities. The renewed alliance, which will continue for five years, promotes a culture of safety in the roadway construction industry, especially among non- and limited-English speaking workers. Members collaborate to reduce workplace incidents, especially preventing worker exposures to run-over and back-over hazards, excessive noise, sprains and strains, and illnesses related to silica exposure. For more information, see the [news release](#).



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Educational Resources

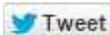
New webpage makes it easier for workers to access information on their rights

OSHA has redesigned its [Worker Rights page](#) to create a better experience for workers looking for information about their rights and

what to do if they have concerns about safety and health at their workplace. The new page divides the key information into three parts: Know Your Rights, When to File a Complaint, and Contact OSHA, with links to all necessary forms and email addresses. Also posted are Frequently Asked Questions and related publications and blogs. Worker Rights is consistently ranked among the top 10 pages visited on [OSHA's website](#).

Concerned about health and safety on the job?

Learn about your rights under OSHA law, and how to take action if you think something is wrong.



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Digital Media

Beware of email scam

OSHA has learned that some businesses are receiving fraudulent emails from an entity that claims to be the Department of Labor. The email advises recipients to download a "guide" to avoid being fined. The email will have the Subject: "OSHA Regulations - Avoid being fined".

While the sender may appear to be OSHA [mailto:mailer@osha.gov] this is not an OSHA generated email.

In the event that you receive a message fitting this description, delete the message immediately and do not click on the link(s). OSHA has alerted the appropriate authorities to the activity.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Best Practices for Compliance to Occupational Safety & Health

It is recognized that Safety & Health at labor is a shared responsibility between establishments and government. Based on this, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services created a Quality Council to examine this non-compliance issue, and to develop best practices to educate providers to improve compliance under OSH Act.

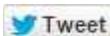
Your establishment was selected in our database to receive this guide for Safety & Health at U.S.: Protecting Workers and Employers. This guide will help workers and of any industry on how to protect his safety, to prevent any related issues. Owners and managers should study this guide, share it with their employees, to regularly check their establishments.

Every establishment industry mentioned on the guide receives an unannounced, onsite inspection, to check if it is meeting Safety & Health requirements. The inspector may visit anytime the establishment is open to the public.

Avoid being fined! Violations may result in a Notice of Violation and/or fine.

Download the guide and avoid being fined.

Occupational Safety & Health Administration
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800-321-OSHA (6742)
ITV



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OSHA provides news and commentary on workplace safety and health from its senior leadership, staff and guest contributors on the [DOL blog](#). See our latest posts:

- [Keeping Cleanup Workers Safe after Midwest Floods and Tornadoes](#) by Mandy Edens, director of OSHA's Directorate of Technical Support and Emergency Management
- [Why This Counts: Slips, Trips and Falls in the Workplace](#) by Commissioner Erica Groshen of the Bureau of Labor Statistics
- [A Commitment to Keeping Workers Safe](#) by Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez, OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels and MSHA Assistant Secretary Joseph Main

Featured Tweet

US Labor Department @USDOL Following

Ice & snow can make surfaces dangerous to walk on. Employers: Take steps to keep workers safe! #OSHA #WinterSafety



Walking Safely on Snow and Ice

Employers should train and encourage workers to follow these precautions:

- ❖ Clear snow and ice from walking surfaces
- ❖ Use footwear with good traction
- ❖ Take short steps and walk at a slower pace

OSHA www.osha.gov

RETWEETS 34 LIKES 26

11:10 AM · 29 Dec 2015

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Job openings

Are you interested in a career with the Department of Labor? DOL has [job opportunities](#) throughout the country, including [openings](#) in OSHA.



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See [DOL's weekly electronic newsletter](#) for more DOL news.

For more frequent updates on OSHA activities follow DOL on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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QuickTakes is a product of OSHA's Office of Communications. If you have comments or suggestions that you think could improve the quality of *QuickTakes*, please submit them to OSHA.QuickTakes@dol.gov or contact the Office of Communications at 202-693-1999. [Note: This address is for input on *QuickTakes* only. Other questions concerning OSHA should be submitted through the agency's [Electronic Mail Form](#).] For more information on occupational safety and health, visit [OSHA's website](#).

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